Similarly, under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, all persons above the age of 65 years who are below the poverty line, according to the criterion prescribed by Government of India, are eligible for old age pension.

Rehabilitation of bonded labourers under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

†585.SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given grant to the States in conformity with their needs for rehabilitation of bonded labourers under Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and

(b) the number of bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour, Central assistance is provided to the States for rehabilitation of identified bonded labourers @ Rs.20,000/- per bonded labour which is equally shared by the Central and State Governments on 50:50 basis. The grants are released only on receipt of the Utilization Certificates for the grants released earlier. The number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated during each of the last two years, State-wise are as under:

Year	Name of the State	No. of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated
2006-07	Uttar Pradesh	104
	West Bengal	93
2007-08	West Bengal	88
	Uttar Pradesh	277
	Bihar	150
	Madhya Pradesh	192
	Haryana	9

Cess under building and other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act

†586.SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far collected under the provision of levying 1 per cent cess, for the benefit of workers, on construction work over Rs. 10 lakhs, according to Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996;

(b) the amount incurred on each of the scheme therefrom;

(c) the authority taking care of the remaining amount and how the Government propose to properly utilize this amount; and

(d) whether the cap on collection of cess on construction work over Rs.10 lakhs is proposed to be pushed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The State Governments are responsible for implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi